



# **CANDIDATE'S HANDBOOK**

for

**OPERATOR  
BRANCH 2**

**STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD**

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## **CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION**

### **PURPOSE OF THE EXAMINATION**

Prior to receiving an operator's license in the State of California, candidates are required to successfully pass a written examination. The primary purpose of the examination is to assess the candidate's ability to apply knowledge of pesticide equipment, pesticide mixing and formulation, pesticide application procedures, and pesticide label directions to the practice of pest control. Candidates should know California's safety laws as well as other laws and regulations related to pest control.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PRACTICE**

Section 8506 of the Business and Professions Code describes the operator as:

"... any individual licensed by the board to practice structural pest control."

Section 8560 of the Business and Professions Code describes Branch 2 as:

"The practice relating to the control of household pests, excluding fumigation with poisonous or lethal gases."

## **CHAPTER 2. APPLICATION PROCESS**

### **APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

Applicant's whose application is deemed complete will be notified of the date, time and location for the examination approximately one week prior to the scheduled examination.

### **ABANDONMENT OF APPLICATION**

The Board considers an application abandoned if a candidate fails to participate in the examination process within 6 months of eligibility in accordance with Title 16, Section 1941, of the California Code of Regulations. In the event of abandonment, a candidate must submit a new application with the required fee, and meet all requirements at the time of filing. Fees submitted at the time of application are not reimbursed when an application is abandoned.

### **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

All examination locations are accessible to persons with disabilities. In addition, the Department grants requests for special accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to receive consideration, all requests and substantiating documentation must be submitted 30 days prior to the examination.

## CHAPTER 3. PREPARATION FOR THE EXAMINATION

### OVERVIEW

The operator examination consists of 200 multiple-choice items from major job duty areas. The examination is developed and maintained by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Office of Examination Resources (OER). OER staff work with practitioners who provide technical expertise in the development of the examination.

### DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR DUTY AREAS

The operator examination is divided into nine major areas that define the scope of knowledge necessary for safe practice. Each of the major content areas, weighted on the examination in terms of its importance in practice, is described below.

▪ Structure Inspection and Pest Location	9%
▪ Pest Identification	8%
▪ Treatment Method Determination	11%
▪ Site Preparation and Treatment Application	18%
▪ Maintenance of Treatment Effectiveness	12%
▪ Safety Procedures for Handling Pesticides and Materials	18%
▪ Regulations and Reporting	7%
▪ Maintenance of Pesticide Storage Facility	11%
▪ Pesticide and Pesticide Equipment Selection	6%

## CONTENT AREAS

1. SITE PREPARATION AND TREATMENT APPLICATION: Applies knowledge of pesticide treatment preparation and application methods to treat residential and commercial sites for target pest(s) :
2. PEST IDENTIFICATION: Applies knowledge of structural pest anatomy, habits and activity patterns to identify pest(s) by examining features, characteristics, behaviors and signs. Provides information to consumers regarding adverse health reactions associated with pest activity. Identifies obscure pests and provides detailed information regarding classification, habits, and activity patterns of them.
3. TREATMENT METHOD DETERMINATION: Applies knowledge of pesticide treatments, site conditions, target pests(s) and consumer preferences to determine application and treatment method(s). Explains advantages and disadvantages of different treatment options to consumers. Provides treatment options and strategies for solving difficult pest problems.
4. SITE PREPARATION AND TREATMENT APPLICATION: Applies knowledge of pesticide treatment preparation and application methods to treat residential and commercial sites for target pest(s).
5. MAINTENANCE OF TREATMENT APPLICATION: Applies knowledge of methods for maintaining consistent levels of pest control by informing consumers of maintenance procedures and performing scheduled treatments. Evaluates treatment effectiveness and recommends modifications to the treatment plan to reduce pest populations acceptable levels.
6. SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING PESTICIDES AND MATERIALS: Reduces the likelihood of nontarget exposure by ensuring adherence to laws, regulations, and equipment maintenance procedures when using, storing, disposing of, and transporting pesticides and materials. Protects consumers by providing information regarding potential adverse reactions from exposure to pesticides and materials.
7. REGULATIONS AND REPORTING: Provides site and monthly usage data to local agencies to assist with maintenance of environmental safety. Maintains updated business information and hazardous material plans with state agencies.
8. MAINTENANCE OF PESTICIDE STORAGE FACILITY: Applies knowledge of pesticide laws, regulations, and pesticide label instructions to ensure safe storage and utilization of pesticides.

9. PESTICIDE AND PESTICIDE EQUIPMENT SELECTION: Evaluates new product information to identify and select pesticides and pesticide application equipment to improve safety and effectiveness.

## EXAMINATION OUTLINE

The examination outline specifies the content of the examination by identifying the knowledge required to demonstrate minimum competence for new practitioners in each of the major duty areas. Examination items will be based on the relevant statutes and provisions of the Structural Pest Control Act, Business and Professions Code, California Code of Regulations, and California Food and Agriculture Code. A current and complete Reference List can be obtained by contacting the Structural Pest Control Board, at 1418 Howe Ave., Suite 18, Sacramento, CA 95825 or calling the Licensing Unit at (916) 263-2544.

THE OUTLINE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES PROVIDES AS A GUIDE TO STUDYING THESE LAWS AND REGULATIONS.



## CHAPTER 4. DAY OF THE EXAMINATION

### REQUISITE MATERIALS FOR ADMITTANCE

Candidates must report to the registration area at the time and date specified on the Notice of Admittance for the examination. The proctors will collect the Notice of Admittance and ask to see official government issued identification with photograph. Candidates who do not bring government issued identification with photograph will **NOT** be allowed to participate in the examination.

### TIME LIMITS

Candidates are given three hours to complete the examination.

### EXAMINATION SECURITY

Candidates should be prepared to place cellular telephones, pagers, handbags, briefcases, and other large personal belongings away from the examination table. The proctors will provide instructions regarding registration, seat assignments, completion of examination materials, and other steps in the examination process.

An applicant who gives or receives unauthorized assistance during an examination shall be dismissed from the examination and his/her markings or results shall be void and such applicant's examination fee shall be forfeited.

Section 123 of the Business and Professions Code prohibits persons who sit for the examination from engaging in any conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert any licensing examination or the administration of a licensing examination. Such conduct includes but is not limited to obstructing the standardized administration of the examination, removal of examination materials from the examination room, communicating examination information to another person, copying answers from another person, using unauthorized books, equipment, notes, or other printed materials during the examination, and

permitting an impersonator to take the examination (for full text of Section 123, see appendix A). Violation of Section 123 will result in disqualification from the examination and possible denial of a license.

## CHAPTER 5. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

### PASSING SCORE

Section 8560 of the Business & Professions Code sets the passing score at 70 percent.

### RELEASE OF RESULTS

The Board will notify candidates of examination results within 2 weeks of the scheduled examination date.

***Examination results will not be released by telephone.***

### RE-APPLICATION PROCESS

If a candidate fails the examination, he or she may submit a new application with the required fee by the final filing date.

## **APPENDIX A. BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE**

### **SECTION 123**

It is a misdemeanor for any person to engage in any conduct which subverts or attempts to subvert any licensing examination or the administration of an examination, including, but not limited to:

(a) Conduct which violates the security of the examination materials; removing from the examination room any examination materials without authorization; the unauthorized reproduction by any means of any portion of the actual licensing examination; aiding by any means the unauthorized reproduction of any portion of the actual licensing examination; paying or using professional or paid examination-takers for the purpose of reconstructing any portion of the licensing examination; obtaining examination questions or other examination material, except by specific authorization either before, during, or after an examination; or using or purporting to use any examination questions or materials which were improperly removed or taken from any examination for the purpose of instructing or preparing any applicant for examination; or selling, distributing, buying, receiving, or having unauthorized possession of any portion of a future, current, or previously administered licensing examination.

(b) Communicating with any other candidate during the administration of a licensing examination; copying answers from another examinee or permitting one's answers to be copied by another examinee; having in one's possession during the administration of the licensing examination any books, equipment, notes, written or printed materials, or data of any kind, other than the examination materials distributed, or otherwise authorized to be in one's possession during the examination; or impersonating any examinee or having an impersonator take the licensing examination on one's behalf.

Nothing in this section shall preclude prosecution under the authority provided for in any other provision of law.

In addition to any other penalties, a person found guilty of violating this section, shall be liable for the actual damages sustained by the agency

administering the examination not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and the costs of litigation.

(c) If any provision of this section or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the section that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this section are severable.